DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 196 447 IR 009 082

TITLE Wisconsin Library Winners: Runners-Up and Rejects. Children's Book Reviews.
INSTITUTION Wisconsin State Dept. of Public Instruction, Madison. Div. of Library Services.
REPORT NO WSDPI-Bull-1155
PUB DATE 80
NOTE 27p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents: *Book Reviews: Children: *Childrens Literature: *Evaluation Criteria: Librarians: Young Adults

ABSTRACT

This collection of 67 reviews of children's and young adult books presents the instructions for librarians participating in the seventh Wisconsin book review browse, explains the selection process, and provides criteria for reviews and an evaluation form. The selected reviews presented here include the reviewer's recommendations and the appropriate age group. Unfavorable reviews are included. (RAA)

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Runners-Up & Rejects

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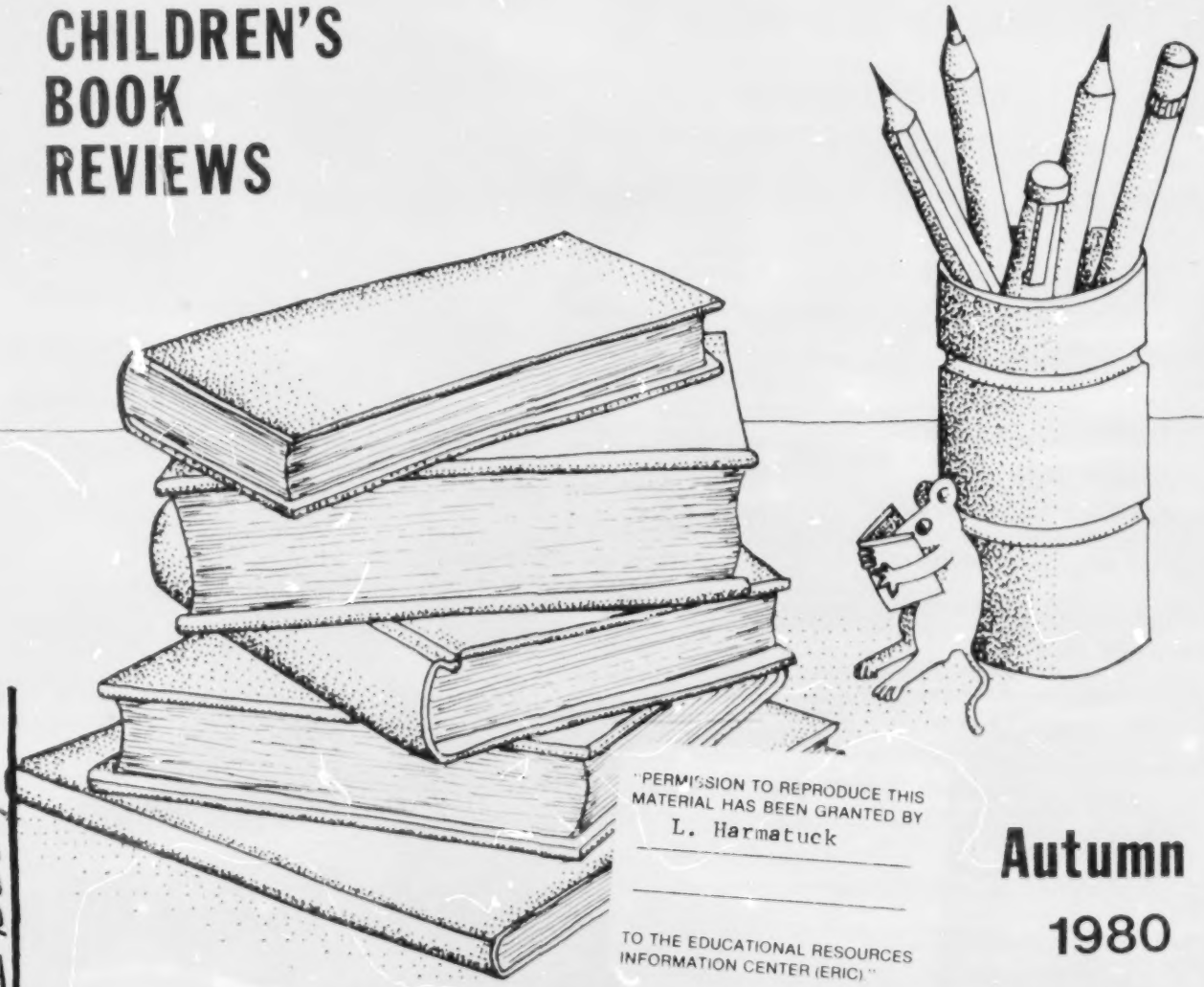
CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEWS



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COMPILATION OF CHILDREN'S NEW BOOK REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY LIBRARIANS AND INTERESTED OTHERS WHO ATTENDED BOOK REVIEW BROWSE VI IN EAU CLAIRE, WI-MARCH 20, 1980

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HOW TO BEST A BOOK REVIEW BROWSE!

EVEN IF YOU'RE AN OLD HAND AT ATTENDING BOOK REVIEW BROWSES--THIS IS WISCONSIN'S SEVENTH--THE FOLLOWING POINTERS MAY HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF TODAY:

CRUISING TIME:

IN ORDER TO BE FAIR TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, A TIME FOR "JUST LOOKING" PRECEDES SELECTION ROUNDS; USE IT TO:

A. WALK THROUGH QUICKLY TO GET AN OVERALL PERSPECTIVE, OBSERVE TRENDS, AND, PERHAPS; FORM AN IMPRESSION OF CONTRASTS IN PUBLISHERS' OFFERINGS AND STYLES.

B. BROWSE MORE CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO EXAMINE AND MAKE PURCHASE NOTES ON SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT REALLY SHOULD BE IN YOUR LIBRARY--IN CASE YOU DON'T GET THERE FIRST DURING SELECTION ROUNDS.

SELECTION ROUNDS ONE AND TWO:

AGAIN, IN ORDER TO BE FAIR TO ALL, ONLY ONE BOOK AT A TIME MAY BE SELECTED DURING ROUNDS ONE AND TWO. BE SURE TO TAKE AN EVALUATION FORM FOR EACH ITEM SELECTED.

SELECTION ROUND THREE:

AT THIS POINT, BROWSERS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO TAKE AS MANY BOOKS AS DESIRED UNTIL ALL HAVE BEEN SELECTED. LEFTOVERS, IF ANY, BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE HOSTING LIBRARY IN EXCHANGE FOR HOSPITALITY. EVERY BOOK SELECTED FOR REVIEW BECOMES A GIFT TO THE LIBRARY REPRESENTED IN EXCHANGE FOR EVALUATION OF IT.

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RULE-OF-THUMB AGE DEFINITIONS ARE:

1. CHILDREN: PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 12
2. YOUNG ADULT: THIRTEEN THROUGH 20

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING BOOKS ARE ATTACHED HERETO.

HK:KKB
ATTACHMENTS

Bulletin No. 1155

Criteria for Evaluating Books

A. General Criteria

1. Suitability of the book for various types of use

   Is it informational?
   Is it recreational?
   Is it inspirational?

2. Author

   Who is the author?
   What are his qualifications?
   What other books has he written?

3. Subject Matter

   Is the content appropriate for children?
   Is it true to life?
   Does it have a wide range of appeal?
   Does it fill a special need?
   Will it build good human values?
   How might the content fit into the curriculum?
   Is the story worth telling?
   How does it compare with other books on the same subject?
   Is it accurate in subject matter?
   How does this book fit into the total collection of books?

4. Illustrations

   Are they placed in right relationship to the story?
   Do they agree with the story detail?
   Do they catch the spirit of the story?
   Are they uncluttered as to detail?

5. Style of Writing

   Is the writing clear and understandable?
   Is it appropriate to the subject of the book?
   Is there richness of expression?
   Is the dialogue natural and suited to the characters?

A. General Criteria (Cont'd):

6. Format

Is the book attractive?
Is the size appropriate?
Do the illustrations complement the text?
Is the paper of good quality?
Is the print clear and appropriate to the age level?
Does the book have a durable binding?
Are the margins wide enough for rebinding?

B. Specific Criteria

1. Picture Books

Is the text simple, yet interesting?
Is the language pleasing?
Are the pictures large and simple?
Do the illustrations complement the story?
Are the illustrations in color?
Do they appeal to the imagination?
Is the humor childlike?
Are there few main characters?
Is there a natural climax?

2. Informational Books

What is the date of publication?
Is the author well qualified in this field?
What is the author's point of view?
Is the information accurate?
Are new words explained in the text and illustration?
Is the author's style interesting?
Does the book stimulate curiosity?
Do illustrations clarify and extend the text?
Does the book include a table of contents, index, glossary, bibliography?
Is information easily located?
Will the book be of interest to several age levels?

B. SPECIFIC CRITERIA (CONT'D.):

2. Informational Books (Cont'd.):

What is the reading level?

Is this a book of special information or of generalized knowledge?

3. Poetry

Does it stimulate sensory imagery?

Does it have rhythmic language?

Is the language appealing?

Does it create an emotional response?

Does it invite auditory response?

4. Books Relating to Ethnic Groups

Are the characters natural and real?

Are the characters presented in a fair and unbiased manner?

Does the book avoid offending sensibilities?

Do characters speak in a manner true to the time and place?

Is the basic speech rhythm right?

5. Biography

As history, is it authentic, objective, and verifiable?

Does it avoid "typing" characters?

Does it provide a true picture of the character within the child's understanding and comprehension?

Does it include accounts of the intimate details of the character's appearance and behavior, particularly those that deal with the character's childhood?

Is the prose style appropriate to the subject and mood of the story?

Does it acquaint the reader with significant information about real people and re-create the times and conditions in which they lived?

Are inspirational values promoted which deal with themes that inspire and enlighten the reader?

Is it sympathetic to the main character presented?

B. SPECIFIC CRITERIA (CONT'D.):

6. Classics

Some educators believe that children should read all of the so-called classics. However, the basic philosophy of the elementary library program is that of meeting individual needs and at the same time developing an appreciation of fine literature. Children should have the opportunity to enjoy the rich treasures of books, whether the books be recent or old; for it is the children who make the eventual decision as to whether a book that had had great appeal for a former generation still has fascination for today's child. There is no one classic that <u>every</u> child should be required to read.

HK:kkb
Attachment

WISCONSIN CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOK REVIEW NETWORKS ... EVALUATION FORM

PI-2412 (Rev. 3-80)

_____RECOMMENDED

_____NOT RECOMMENDED

_____UNDECIDED

AUTHOR_____ ILLUSTRATOR_____
(LAST) (FIRST)

TITLE_____PUBLISHER_____

PUBLICATION YE._____PAGING_____PRICE_____ILLUSTRATIONS (B&W)_____(COLOR)_____

INDEX_____FICTION_____NON-FICTION_____BIOGRAPHY_____

BOOK REVIEWED BY: LIBRARIAN_____OTHER(PLEASE SPECIFY)_____

AGE RANGE OR RANGES FOR WHICH YOU WOULD RECOMMEND THE BOOK_____
LC#_____ISBN#_____

REVIEW:

-6-

(PLEASE TYPE IF POSSIBLE)

COMPARE OR CONTRAST WITH OTHER TITLES:_____

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REVIEWER_____

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PHONE_____

DATE_____

Aesop. THE LION AND THE MOUSE. Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8.

Striking black and white illustrations done in pen and ink bring the fable imaginative interpretation. Nice simple pictures for a "black and white" fable. (Nancy Sailer)

Aliki. THE TWO OF THEM. Greenwillow Books., 1979. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8.

An absolutely beautiful book, both story and illustrations, showing the love of a child and her grandfather. This is a book every family should have. The sensitive portrayal of life and death and life again is heart-warming. (Lois Kubicz)

Allen, Pamela. MR. ARCHIMEDES' BATH. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., 1980. Not Recommended. Ages Preschool through 5. LC #79-13368.

This book has many elements that should appeal to young children, but the story line detracts from the large size of the book, pictures, and print. The story revolves around an overflowing bathtub and Mr. Archimedes' efforts to discover why. The only impression it will leave with children is the desire to jump in and out of the tub. There are better books for the price. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Arden, William. THE SECRET OF SHARK REEF. Random House., 1979. Recommended Ages 9-14. LC #PZ7.L984Ao.

Alfred Hitchcock and the Three Investigators in The Secret of Shark Reef is another in the series based on the mystery solving adventures of Jupiter Jones, Pete Crenshaw and Bob Andrews. This mystery is filled with lots of action, a good mystery and some very good description. It has the basic Three Investigators story line: Bob, Pete and Jupiter become involved in a mystery case, there are some close calls and in the end the mystery is solved to the satisfaction of Jupiter -- the brainy boy detective. To be sure that I was not biased toward the books, I had my 10 year old daughter read this one. She is a dedicated reader and will read most everything. She thoroughly enjoyed this her first Three Investigator mystery. She felt that both boys and girls in her school class would enjoy the book and would want more. I agree! If you have the series, you'll want this one. If not, this is an exciting, fulfilling mystery story which will appeal to non-readers and readers alike. (Rodney Bland)

Asher, Sandy. SUMMER BEGINS. Elsevier/Nelson Books., 1980. Recommended. Ages 10 through 14. LC #PZ7.A816Su.

In her first young adult novel, Sandy Fisher unfolds the story of a thirteen-year-old girl suddenly growing up and growing aware of herself as a person. From a girl with no opinions who wants to keep a low profile, Summer Smith's editorial on the Christmas program flares up into a school and community controversy quickly putting her into the limelight. She discovers that she does have opinions and inner strength to cope with things. Her seventeen-year-old Greek God neighbor helps her learn how to be comfortable with boys. All in all, Summer is off to a good start and her story will give junior high girls some important things to ponder as they read. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Baker, Alan. BENJAMIN'S DREADFUL DREAM. J.B. Lippincott., 1980. Undecided. Ages Preschool through 8. LC #79-5369.

Benjamin, a mouse with spectacles, has a surrealistic dream. Modern, bright, bold illustrations convey the strong movement of the story line, as Benjamin tumbles, bounces and falls through several adventures. The picture book set won't understand the "was it a dream or did it really happen?" angle, but they may enjoy the colorful, action-filled story. (Barbara Rosenthal)

Balian, Lorna. WHERE IN THE WORLD IS HENRY? Abingdon Press., 1980. Undecided. Ages Preschool through 7.

This isn't one of the books I would run out and buy for my own children. It does show how one supposedly simple question can balloon into a discussion of the universe when dealing with the inquisitive child (for this reason I recommend it for the younger age group), but it didn't thrill a four year old. The illustrations occasionally added the red but were basically brown and white line drawings. (Chris Ainslie)

Bester, Roger. GUESS WHAT? Crown Publishers, Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6. LC #QL49.B556

An excellent book for developing visual discrimination with young children, GUESS WHAT? consists of a series of questions and answers dealing with the characteristics and habitats of a variety of animals. All of the illustrations in the book are quality black and white photographs, first showing specific parts or characteristics of the animal with the question and finally a full page photograph accompanying the answer. This is a fine book for child involvement and interaction. (Lynn Indgjer)

Bester, Roger. GUESS WHAT? Crown Publishers, Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6. LC #QL49.B556.

In this book, filled with beautiful black and white photographs, the young child engages in a guessing game identifying seven animals by simple word and picture clues. The word clues always include "has..." and "lives in..." There are two cropped pictures on one page followed by a doublepage spread in which the animal is not too easily discovered and then on the next page a close-up with the answer. Little children will have fun with this fine book. There are not many other guessing books for this age group. (Cecelia Zellinger)

Boccaccio, Tony. RACQUETBALL BASICS. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1979. Recommended. Ages 10 through adult.

This is a good basic introductory book for anyone, including adults, interested in learning how to play racquetball. There are many illustrations and diagrams. There are limbering up exercises, tips on buying racquets and offense and defense strategy. (Joan Mish)

Bonsal, Crosby. WHO'S AFRAID OF THE DARK. Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6.

A delightful story for the very young who may be afraid of the dark. The pictures tell much more than the words. Wonderful. (Christine Bergquist)

Butler, Beverly. MY SISTER'S KEEPER. Dodd, Mead & Co., Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages 13 through adult.

Teenage girls and old ladies are going to love this book, but why do heroines so often have to be so good? This is an easy way to learn a part of Wisconsin's history. Even growing-up in Minnesota, I'd heard of the Peshtigo Fire from my parents and grandparents. However, unless one has lived thru such an event, fire and its devastation would be hard to realize. The author makes us feel the pain, loss of life, family separations, intense heat, etc. And what sister grows up without some envy and bitterness? Especially recommend this book for Wisconsin Public Libraries. (Florence Railsback)

Carey, M.V. THE MYSTERY OF THE SINISTER SCARECROW. Random House, 1979. Recommended. Ages 9-12.

THE MYSTERY OF THE SINISTER SCARECROW is a book to be enjoyed by the young mystery buffs. Again The Three Investigators appeal to the adventurous as they match wits with a sinister scarecrow and his haunting ways. It is characteristic of other books in this series providing fast moving pace and suspenseful intrigue. (Florence Valett)

Coerr, Eleanor and Dr. William E. Evans. GIGI: A BABY WHALE BORROWED FOR SCIENCE AND RETURNED TO THE SEA. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1980. Recommended. Ages 12 and to adult. LC #80-10346.

This book tells the fascinating story of Gigi, a baby grey whale who was captured, studied by scientists at Sea World and safely returned to the sea. The story is told simply and clearly from the plans and preparations preceding Gigi's capture to the follow-up activities after her release. Research on Gigi provided valuable data on the metabolism physiology and behavior of the species. Gigi is portrayed as not merely an object of scientific investigation but as an individual character with her own personality. One is awed by the statistics relative to Gigi's size in terms of her weight, length, quantities of food consumed, etc. A very interesting and enjoyable book. A glossary, bibliography and list of organizations specializing in whales are included. (Barbara Rosenthal)

Cresswell, Helen. BAGTHORPES V. THE WORLD. Macmillian Publishing Co., Inc., 1979. Not Recommended. Ages 10-12. LC #79-13260.

Each of the first previous volumes of the author's Bagthorpe Saga, ORDINARY JACK, ABSOLUTE ZERO, and BAGTHORPES UNLIMITED, introduced readers to the comical world of the Bagthorpe family and led readers to belly laughs even though the tone and humor was British, but this fourth part of the Bagthorpe Saga leaves one with a disappointed feeling that Cresswell did not do her best. BAGTHORPES V. THE WORLD begins by telling us of Mr. B's newly developed persecution complex caused by a mixed-up bank statement which convinces Mr. B. that he is nearly bankrupt and eventually leads him to become self-sufficient and raise his own food and brew his own beer. The predominant plot is at times humorous but is not developed to its fullest potential and is further bogged down by the addition of a totally disjointed subplot featuring the antics caused by the visit of Great-Aunt Lucy. The repeated usage of British intellectual terms not only bores readers but makes the book almost unintelligible to children. As a result the book should only be added to collections where Bagthorpe readers are begging for more. In the meantime, rely on Cresswell's first three books to tickle small funny bones. Oh well, children are more fond of trilogies anyway... (Curt LeMay)

Crowley, Arthur. BONZO BEAVER. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. Recommended. Ages 4-8.

The day has come when Bonzo Beaver is old enough to go outside alone with older brother Boo. But Boo is not too pleased by this and proceeds to make things rough for Bonzo. After fearing he has lost Bonzo and wandering into forbidden territory, Boo discovers Bonzo is not so dumb when he bails him out of trouble. This story will help children see that though they may not always get along, things are usually done easier and better together. (Ann Bock)

Davies, Andrew. CONRAD'S WAR. Crown Publishers, Inc., 1978. Recommended. Ages 10-13. LC #79-28289.

CONRAD'S WAR could almost be a fantasy. It's a very different and unusual story that includes a lot of humor. Conrad, a British boy, is fascinated by war games, and he has a wild imagination. Because he thinks his family leads a dull existence, he uses his imagination to liven things up. The story covers the many escapades of Conrad as he imagines himself in World War II. Since his imagination is so strong, there are times when he actually believes some of the adventures really happen. Each reader might look at the story in a different light. (Phyllis Penn)

Delton, Judy. LEE HENRY'S BEST FRIEND. Albert Whitman and Co., 1980. Recommended. Ages 5-8.

Judy Delton's book is a delightful story of what it means to have a best friend, but lose him. The text successfully describes Lee Henry's feelings and concludes with a most satisfactory ending. The accompanying illustrations reflect favorably the varying moods of this engaging story for young readers. (Luan Monsos)

Demi. WHERE IS IT? Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1980. Recommended. All ages. LC #78-22634.

At the top of each of 25 colorful single or double pages is a box with something in it: an elephant, a horse and rider, a tiny mouse, or what have you? Children of all ages will enjoy searching the page for the exact duplicate. It takes close observation of color, line and detail. The pages are beautiful in color and design. Solutions to the puzzles are on the back pages. This is an original and highly artistic book which all will enjoy. Most highly recommended. (Anonymous)

Dolan, Edward F. Jr. THE COMPLETE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GYMNASTICS. Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages 10 through adult. LC #78-60286.

This excellent gymnastic guide begins with simple basic exercises and instructions advancing to the eight competitive events which are stressed. Each exercise has photographs of gymnasts showing performance in every step. Also more than one hundred stunts are talked about in the competitive events, and various kinds of equipment used are described in detail. (Lita Schollmeier)

Drescher, Joan. THE MARVELOUS MESS. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 7.

The illustrations are terrific! Not only do children seem to enjoy listening to the story and laughing at all of the components of the Mess, but parents who read it will also get a kick out of it and can see the actions of their own little cherubs. I think it is important to show to both children and parents the humorous side of discipline. (Chris Ainslie)

Drescher, Joan. Walker & Company, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 7. LC #HQ734.D84.

Drescher presents an excellent picture of families in concepts young children can understand. Though it makes a nice "read aloud," it would be excellent for a kindergarten or first grade teacher to read and discuss with a class. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Eliott, Alan C. ON SUNDAY THE WIND CAME. William Morrow & Co., Inc., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6.

This is an unusual picture book that follows the fickle weather of an early winter week. The narrator is wondering what the next day will bring.

On Sunday the wind comes, blowing kites and leaves. Monday it rains and the newly formed streams are good for sailing twig boats. Tuesday the fog lends itself to playing hide and seek and Wednesday's cold wind makes drawing on the windows fun. Then sleet and snow and also sun comes in turn with each new day, providing the children with more opportunities for fun.

This will provide children with a fun reading experience. (William Mayne)

Ferro, Beatriz. CAUGHT IN THE RAIN. Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1980. Not Recommended. Ages Preschool through 5.

This book is as pleasant as walking in the rain under an umbrella. Sambin's colorful illustrations set the atmosphere for this pleasant story about sheltering yourself in a shower.

The trade copy is not well bound and if the library edition has the same shiny cardboard cover, it will be an expensive purchase for a library. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Fine, Joan. I CARVE STONE. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1979. Recommended. Ages 7-12.

This book offers a good description of the process of turning a block of marble into a finished sculpture. Not only does the author explain the steps she goes through, she also shares her ideas and feelings about the work in progress. Clear black and white photographs augment the text. Younger children will need help with some of the vocabulary. (Marty O'Halloran)

Getz, Arthur. HUMPHREY, THE DANCING PIG. Dial Press, 1980. Recommended. Ages 3-7. LC #79-20616.

The message of Getz's book is be yourself. Humphrey, a pig, decides he would like to be as slim as the cat; so he begins dancing himself thin. He finally reaches his goal, but now the farmer doesn't recognize him and puts Humphrey to work chasing mice. The cat becomes big and fat, and Humphrey gets tired of doing all the work; so he begins to eat again. Soon things are back to normal and Humphrey is proud to be himself. A good story for preschoolers and young readers. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Gee, Maurice. UNDER THE MOUNTAIN. Oxford University Press, 1979. Recommended Ages 5-7.

Theo and Rachel Matheson are visiting relatives in Auckland when they meet the sinister Wilberforces and the enigmatic Mr. Jones. Giant creatures, bound by a centuries-old spell, are beginning to awaken from their enchanted sleep. For the moment they are helpless, but time is running out. Only the children have the power to save the world from destruction.

Does the scenario sound familiar? By now everyone who reads fantasy knows this plot by heart: Danger threatens. Child-protagonists undergo great trials. Danger is averted. Mr. Gee's book, however, is set apart from the usual by two things: The avoidance of strange names and pseudoceltic mythology; that, plus sentence structure, vocabulary, and chapter length, make this book accessible to those children not quite ready for Alexander, Cooper, L'Engle and LeGuin. The lack of a pat ending. All loose ends are not tied up; all does not end happily; victory may be dearly bought.

These two points, added to a fast-moving plot and fairly realistic dialogue, are pluses. A big minus, besides the all-too-familar story line, is the price--$9.95 for 155, standard-size, unillustrated pages? The response in many libraries might be, "Let's wait for the paperback!" (Holly Sanhuber)

Ginsburg, Mirra. OOKIE-SPOOKY. Crown, 1979. Recommended. Ages 3-6.

A little girl is given a drawing book, and she begins to draw. She draws whiskers, tails, teeth, etc. It looks like nothing living or dead. In this picture book the reader will find Masha's reaction to her own drawing funny as well as reassuring. It's a story of the imagination. The printing in this book is unique as part of the book is done in a child's handwriting. (Dorothy Peters)

Gordy, Sr., Berry. MOVIN'UP: POP GORDY TELLS HIS STORY. Harper & Row, 1979. Recommended. Ages 5 through adult.

In his own words, this is the story of an extraordinary black American, son of a former slave and father of Berry Gordy, Jr., who founded Motown Records. Pop Gordy's story starts on his father's plantation in Georgia in the old house with chinks in the shingles to let in the fresh air. Whether scrapping with his brothers and sisters, fooling his mama, walking the crops with his papa, or scufflin' hard to make his living, Berry knew how to enjoy everything he did. When he left the South to build a new life in Detroit, he took his love of family, fun, and honest hard work with him. (Marilyn Hinker)

Green, Melinda. RACHEL'S RECITAL. Little, Brown & Co., 1979. Not Recommended. Ages 9-11. LC #PZ7.G8252Rac.

Disappointing--from title, looked for book to be inspiration for young pianist but instead it was more about Mother's ambitions for her children. Local librarian and another adult, a special education teacher, also read book and didn't like it either. The illustrations are interesting and good. (E. Darnell)

Gregory, Diana. I'M BOO. . .THAT'S WHO! Addison-Wesley, 1979. Recommended. Ages 9-13.

Thirteen year old Lisa Hedley, nicknamed Boo, her mother and her brother, Jonathon, and his pet snake, Wentworth, moved from Los Angeles, California, to a small town in Virginia horse country. She comes to the conclusion that the only way she can make friends is to join the local stable and learn to ride horses. She adjusts to the ups and downs of a new life style. (M. Austin)

Haber, Louis. WOMEN PIONEERS OF SCIENCE. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1979. Recommended. Ages 9-12. LC #79-87517.

A variety of fields are represented in these twelve short biographies of outstanding women scientists. Six gained world recognition by winning Nobel prizes. Black and white photographs are included for each, and there is an index. A well-written title for any children's biography collection. (Mary Whittington)

Hancock, Sibyl. FREAKY FRANCIE. Prentice-Hall, 1979. Undecided. Ages 6-8.

This story, in which two young detectives engage the help of their baby-sitter, Freaky Francie, in finding a missing pin, is an unsatisfyingly solved mystery. The characters are the stereotype sleuths. The redeeming feature of this book is Shortail's amusing illustrations. (Luan Monsos)

Hanlon, Emily. THE SWING. Bradbury Press, 1979. Recommended. Ages 11-15.

An 11-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy share a swing, each having a private reason for liking the solitude surrounding it. Beth is deaf. Her handicap has led her to a tender appreciation of nature. Danny, on the other hand, is forced by a stepfather into hunting for the two bears Beth loves to observe. Their fates intermingle and they find out that they are secret sharers of much more than a swing. Feeling and perception are captured with every word Ms. Hanlon wrote. (Gail Pachucki)

Hewett, Joan. WATCHING THEM GROW. Little, Brown & Co., 1979. Recommended. Ages 10-14.

The photo's are terrific! The narrative follows a night nurse in the nursery of the San Diego Zoo for four months. There is a slight story describing the great growth and activity change in these animals. There is a lot of information on monkeys and their habits. (Joan Mish)

Hoban, Lillian. HARRY'S SONG. Greenwillow Books, 1980. Recommended
Ages 4 through adult.

This delightful children's book, with its delicately colored pictures, appealed to me as much as if I had been a young child. It left a warm glow in my heart and a smile on my face, and seemed to brighten the whole day. Its gentle philosophy was an inspiration. How wonderful if more parents (human ones, especially) could value the worth and contribution of their children!

Harry is a dreamer, whose contribution to the rabbit family's preparations for winter is a lovely summer song - as important to his mother as the practical help of his brothers and sisters. (Marion E. Wenberg)

Hurmence, Belinda. TOUGH TIFFANY. Doubleday, 1980. Recommended.
Ages 10-15.

Tough Tiffany is original and a joy to read. Tiffany, not truly tough, is the youngest offspring of a poor black family, and has had minimal luxuries. Her mother is a spendthrift; thus, many of their comforts are promptly repossessed. Cranky, well-to-do, grandmother refuses to come to the aid of her irresponsible daughter. Tiffany, despite the many difficulties, plus her own normal growing pains, proves to be a strong, intelligent girl. A touch of humor helps make this a warm family story. (Gail Pachucki)

Isadora, Rachel. MY BALLET CLASS. Greenwillow Books, 1980. Recommended.
Preschool through 8. LC #79-16297.

Isadora's sensitive charcoal and watercolor illustrations embellish a picture book for the child who is already enrolled in ballet class, or for the child who is about to enter ballet class. Due to the frequent use of ballet terms such as "plié" and "arabesque" the book may confuse young children unless it's used as a stepping stone to such books as First Steps in Ballet by Thalia Mara. One must keep in mind that there are few ballet books for very young children, whereas there is a plethora of material for older readers. Librarians may wish to use Isadora's book as well as I Am a Ballerina, by Dick Swayne, to replace such outdated ballet picture books as I Want to Be a Ballerina by Carla Greene and particularly The Little Ballerina by Dorothy Grider which should be buried in a collection of "bad books." One very positive selling point is the book's healthy portrayal of sensitive males; for example, the instructor is male and there are boys in the class as well as girls so that very young males will find this one of the only ballet books, other than Isador Max, which will allay their fears of entering ballet class. It is interesting that the young girl's father is seen waiting with many mothers when lessons are over which makes the book useful in portraying the interest fathers are taking in child raising and may be useful to children with male single parents. (Curt LeMay)

Keller, Charles, Compiler. THE WIZARD OF GAUZE, AND OTHER GAGS FOR KIDS. Prentice, 1979. Recommended. Ages 1-4. LC #79-15105.

There are never enough joke books to supply the insatiable demand from children. Charles Keller has compiled many successful ones. This book too is bound to be popular with its amusing drawings and silly "Did you hear 'bout?" jokes. Keller knows what children will think is funny. If the budget will allow, several copies should be purchased for school and public libraries. (Cecelia Zellinger)

Kherdian, David. THE ROAD FROM HOME. Greenwillow Books, 1979. Recommended. Ages 12 through adult. LC #78-72511.

Veron Dumehjian, born to a prosperous Armenian family, lived in the Armenian section in Turkey. Her childhood was very happy until the Turkish government decided to get rid of the Armenian population. At that time, she suffered many hardships, but survived. At age 16 she left for America as a mail-order bride. She now resides in Fresno, California, but lived for many years in Racine, Wisconsin. (Lita Schollmeier)

Kimura, Yasuko. FERGUS AND THE SNOW DEER McGraw Hill, 1979. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8.

This is a story about a loveable woodland creature's adventures one winter while all his friends hibernate. Fergus wakes and frolics with whimsical magical snowdeer. Though unable to wake his friends, Fergus is glad he had the opportunity to play with the snow deer. They disappear almost as quickly as they appeared. So he goes back to sleep dreaming of (Guess What). When he awakens, it is Spring. None of his friends believes his story, but he's already anxious for next winter. Very appealing for Preschoolers. Colorful, imaginative and just plain enjoyable. A happy playful book. (Nancy Sailer)

Lane, Peter. WHAT ROCK IS ALL ABOUT. Messner, 1979. Recommended. Ages 12-18.

My students are very interested in rock music and musicians so this book is very popular. In fact, I had a request from a student to read this book before I had time to catalog it! This book is enjoyable, readable and very helpful for research purposes. The index and bibliography are essential for research. (Marilyn J. Poppe)

Levitin, Sonia. A SOUND TO REMEMBER. Harcourt Brace Jovonovich, 1979. Recommended. Ages 5-8.

A good book that depicts the inner turmoil of a shy, perhaps slow boy who suddenly has the chance to do a very important job. Good for all children. (Christine Bergquist)

Linsell, Tony. MR. FERDINAND FISK, CAT DETECTIVE. McGraw Hill, 1979. Recommended. Ages 5-8.

Unlike some picture books, this story is quite a clever mystery for the very young. Inquisitive cat detective, Mr. Fisk, traces clues with the help of his many animal friends. He is led to an abandoned cabin which is now home for a bank of rats. Now, of course, rats and mice have a strong dislike for feline interference. The illustrations, bright and appealing, blend well with the text. Fun story! (Gail Pachucki)

Mac Lachlan, Patricia. THROUGH GRANDPA'S EYES. Harper & Row, 1979. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 10.

Wonderful story of a young child learning about a handicapped person. The pictures were done in water color and shaded to present the image of objects rather than the full object thereby encouraging the reader to imagine what it must be like to be blind and handicapped in that manner. Many examples in the book could be used with children to encourage creative dramatic play in order to feel and "see" and smell like the blind person. Also provided a warm family feeling through the boy and his grandparents. (J. Baier)

Mendoza, George and Segovia, Andres. SEGOVIA: MY BOOK OF THE GUITAR: GUIDANCE FOR THE BEGINNER. Collins, 1979. Recommended. Ages 8 through adult.

Being no musician, I can be no fair judge of this book by Andres Segovia, Segovia, My Book of the Guitar. However, I'm still enthralled with the man from attending his performance in Minneapolis several years ago. If I had a guitar available, I think I could learn to play it from this Book--ample and detailed illustrations show one how to read music as well as identify the parts of the instrument and all the hand positions. The book is more than a "how to" guide. It is also the life of a man and his philosophies--an appreciation of him and his art and incidentally of the guitar as well. (Florence Railsback)

Miklowitz, Gloria. NATALIE DUNN. Harcourt Brace, 1979. Not Recommended. Ages 8-10.

Not recommended for library use because the small size does not sit well on the shelves and quality of binding and paper is not durable. The book does have very readable size print and several photos enhance the story. It is a popular subject and has easy reading appeal. (Doris Kassera)

Miller, Edna. JUMPING BEAN. Prentice, 1979. Recommended. Ages 4-7. LC #79-15434.

In JUMPING BEAN many animals wonder at the bean that jumps. The story enables us to meet these creatures of the Mexican landscape. A cut-away drawing near the end explains the mystery of why the bean jumps. The pictures are soft and appealing and done with loving care. The easy-to-read or listen-to text contains accurate nature lore. Edna Miller has scored solid successes with her Mousekin books and promises to do so again with this one. Very good for the youngest combining beauty, mystery and nature lore. Recommended for schools and public libraries and others. (Cecelia Zellinger)

Mitchell, Cynthia. UNDER THE CHERRY TREE. Collins, 1979. Recommended. Ages 4-8. LC #79-11579.

A delightful collection of poetry for children, just right for reading aloud. Beautiful full color pictures by Satomi Ichikawa illustrate gardens in winter, sleeping cats, bonfires, and spring pastures. (Mary Whittington)

Norris, Louanne and Smith, Howard. AN OAK TREE DIES AND A JOURNEY BEGINS. Crown, 1979. Undecided. Ages Preschool through 8.

Book centers around the life of an oak tree. The journey that it takes after its death and how it remains useful to the environment after it dies. Sentences seem nondescriptive, almost dead. The black and white drawings are appealing to adults interested in line drawings, but would not appeal to the child who would depend upon color to keep his attention on this work. Preschoolers would lose interest in this book because of the lack of color and older children would perhaps be bored with the sentence structure. It may be good for the first grader who is just beginning to read and needs no frills to his language. (Joanne Baier)

Parish, Peggy. BEGINNING MOBILES. Macmillian, 1979. Recommended. Ages 6-9.

This easy to read craft book ranges in projects from the very simple to more detailed. Similar to other Peggy Parish books, BEGINNING MOBILES is well illustrated, with clearly explained instructions for the beginning crafter. (Florence Valett)

Pearson, Susan. MOLLY MOVES OUT. Dial Press, 1979. Recommended. Ages 5-9.

In this delightful story for beginning readers, Molly faces the problem of many an older sister. Her four little brothers and three little sisters will give her no peace. Wherever she goes, they want to tag along. Finally one day Molly moves out.

At first she is happy in her own tranquil, little house across the meadow. But something seems to be missing. Susan Pearson's direct, humorous story, which beginning readers can read all alone, and Steven Kellogg's affectionate illustrations perfectly capture Molly's needs and her discovery at last that too much of anything is no good at all. (Marilyn Hinker)

Phillips, Louis. THE BROTHERS WRONG AND WRONG AGAIN. McGraw Hill, 1979. Not Recommended. Ages 5-8.

Good illustrations. I feel that the jokes are over the children's heads. He tries too hard to be cute and he kills it. (Chris Ainslie)

Pinkwater, Daniel M. YOBGORGLE. Houghton Mifflin, 1979. Undecided. Ages 10-14. LC #PZ7.P6335 Yo.

Eugene Winkleman is a rather nice young boy who appears to be more serious and have more common sense than many of the other characters in this book. The plot of the story deals with Eugene's involvement in the pursuit of the mystery monster of Lake Ontario, Yobgorgle, who turns out to be a submarine built to look like a fat pig. While the story is a zany adventure, guaranteed to provide entertaining reading, it also tends to poke fun at several things, such as people who are over-weight and junk food places, and terms, such as garden-variety lunatic and idiot are used to describe people. (Lynn Indgjer)

Quackenbush, Robert. DETECTIVE MOLE AND THE CIRCUS MYSTERY. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1980. Recommended. Ages 6-9.

Detective Mole solves another mystery-the strange disappearance of Melba, the Amazing Tattooed Cow, that occurred the morning before Melba was to be married to Boris Bull, the circus strong act.

A crowd of thousands was eagerly awaiting the biggest circus wedding ever. Boris and all their circus friends were beside themselves with worry. Only Detective Mole's clever sleuthing could save the day and it does, in grand style. (Marilyn Hinker)

Rogovin, Anne. LET ME DO IT! Crowell, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through Adult.

Clear black and white photos illustrate almost every page of this handbook for parents and teachers. Stressing simple activities, the author wishes to demonstrate the importance of self-reliance and independence. Several activities warrant too much space: the joys of scribbling encompass two pages and six photographs. Projects such as finger plays, puppets and easy to make bird feeders have more information to offer. There's not much new information here but it is a good refresher of easy fun activities. (Diane Peters)

Schultz, Charles M. SNOOPY'S FACTS & FUN BOOK ABOUT HOUSES. Random House, 1979. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8. LC #Th 4811.5.S6.

An excellent book to use while studying a unit on homes, SNOOPY'S FACTS & FUN BOOK ABOUT HOUSES uses the ever-popular character of Snoopy to present information on a wide variety of houses. Brief but informative definitions are given using vocabulary designed to broaden children's knowledge of homes around the world. The illustrations are simple but colorful and show the detail necessary for children to visualize the homes. The end of the book lends itself to discussion giving children an opportunity to share information about their own homes. (Lynn Indgjer)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weiman. LITTLE DEVIL GETS SICK. Doubleday, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8.

LITTLE DEVIL GETS SICK with it's amusing illustrations will appeal to the beginning reader. The conflict between good and bad is resolved in a most delightful manner, as Little Devil tries all sorts of nasty things to help him get well. The easy to read aloud text insures an attentive audience. (Florence Valett)

Simon, Norma. I'M BUSY, TOO. Albert Whitman & Co., 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6. LC #79-18652.

Three children from three different families spend a busy day at their school and child care center, while other family members are busy with their work. The illustrations are excellent; children will enjoy comparing notes on all the activities at school. Different races and single parents as well as two-parent families are shown. The over-all impression is quite cheerful and positive. (Marty O'Halloran)

Van Allsburg, Chris. THE GARDEN OF ABDUL GASAZI. Houghton Mifflin, 1979. Recommended. Ages 6 through Adult.

If Van Allsburg's story-line were to be judged alone,--apart from the pictures,--one would not be too surprised to find this is his first book. His tone is somewhat condescending, that familiar patronizing air of "...just a children's book." The plot is very straightforward, simple, except for the twist of magic-or-not? at the end. Some reviewers might also question the static quality of the book design wherein a small, square block of print on the left faces a large square block of illustration on the right, throughout the book. Others might repine that, apart from the fascinating topiary sculpture pictured on the book jacket, we never really see much of the garden of Abdul Gasazi. The sheer artistry and the almost overpowering and calculated technique evident in the illustrations, must outweigh all other niggling concerns. This large (9 3/4 x 12 in) rectangle, well-bound in ivory-colored boards and charcoal-colored end-papers, is impressive.

Using only black pencil, the artist juxtaposes shadow and light in a way which borders on surrealism--or perhaps it is that Van Allsburg seems to manipulate the viewer's position so that he/she always feels somewhat off balance. One has the impression that sleight-of-hand is being practiced right before one's eyes, which is disconcerting, but delightful. An impressive visual treat for all ages; named a Caldecott Honor book. (Holly Sanhuber)

Van der Meer, Ron and Atie. OH, LORD! Crown, 1980. Not Recommended. All Ages. LC #79-24493.

OH LORD! is an unnecessary retelling of the creation story. Told mostly in cartoon-like pictures, this account relates the daily adventures of God and two impudent angels as He creates the world. The story comes across as ludicrous, jolting, shocking and irreverent. There are many beautiful and lovely stories of the creation for children which are a better choice than this for purchase. (Cecelia Zellinger)

Walker, Katherine and Butler, Joan. BALLET FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. Prentice-Hall, 1979. Recommended. Ages 8-12. LC #78-27402.

Authors Katherine Sorely Walker and Joan Butler have taken many of the strong features of the best ballet books and have combined these features into an entertaining introductory work for young dancers as well as for ballet buffs. Some chapters delve into the history of classical ballet, choreography, and the work of famous ballet companies which should whet the appetite for further study using such core titles as Harris' RUSSIAN BALLET SCHOOL, Streatfield's, A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE BALLET, and Untermeyer's TALES FROM THE BALLET. The authors touch on the personal and private lives of adult dancers as well as the role of child dancers which could lead to interest in dance biography and the use of such exceptional books as Krementz's A VERY YOUNG DANCER. The book does not outline elementary ballet barre exercises and libraries needing this information are advised to purchase FIRST STEPS IN BALLET by Thalia Mara. The unique point of the book is its explanation that ballet is not a unisex art, and while most books of this genre are written for budding ballerinas, this book provides sufficient information regarding the male dancer's role and should also enthuse males interested in pursuing ballet careers. The book also speaks of the behind the scenes activities such as staging and costuming which will serve those with technical interests. Ballet terms are italicized and the book includes an index. (Curt LeMay)

Weiss, Ellen. THINGS TO MAKE AND DO FOR CHRISTMAS. Watts, 1980. Recommended. Ages 5-10. LC #TT900.C4W44.

Here is a welcome addition to any library's Christmas book collection. Except for the cooking, the activities need little or no adult supervision. The reading can be handled by good 2nd and 3rd grade readers, and the illustrations are very explanatory. The activities are listed by weeks so even though children will go through them quickly, there is a wide variety including crafts, games, recipes, and songs. (Judy M. Krelitz)

Winkowski, Fred. THE MARTIAN CRYSTAL EGG. Harper & Row, 1980. Not Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6. LC #79-2011.

Pik finds a mysterious crystal and brings it home. There, it hatches into a flying friend. When they return to the Crystal City, Pik is made Master of Egg Hatchery.

The illustrations are eye-catching, but the story itself is short on action and plot. (Julie Knaapen)

Wolcott, Patty. THE DRAGON AND THE WILD FANDANGO. Addison-Wesley, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 6.

A wild dragon is tamed by joining a group dancing a fandango. Charmingly illustrated with the words large enough for the youngest to easily read. Even the colors seem to blend with the chant of the story. Recommended as a first Read-By-Myself book, with a ten word text. (S. Zimmerman)

Wood, Audrey, TICKLEOCTOPUS. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. Recommended. Ages Preschool through 8.

Cute make-believe story for reading aloud to younger children. Appreciated the different reactions to the TickleOctopus by the adults. Would like to see quotation marks used. (Barbara Jorgenson)

Yep, Laurence: SEA GLASS. Harper & Row, 1979. Recommended. Ages 11-16.

A Chinese-American boy has a father who persists in having his son take part in sports. Dad insists that this is the only way that a Chinese male can compete with the white Americans. Young Craig Chen encounters frequent obstacles which prevent him from being his own man. Craig, unlike his father, is proud of his ethnic background. Old Uncle Quail shows him a world where he can be himself. A fine, sensitive novel. (Gail Pachucki)